

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

May 19, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Don Thompson, Ben Babin, Anthony “Tony” Rouchon, John Brass, David Hoover,
Jerry Thibeau, Larry Thomas, Kenneth Wade Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: William “Carey” Jenkins , Willie George Lee, Terry Louque

NOTE: Vacant Seat(s) Livingston Parish, St. Helena Parish

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau,
ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Thompson.
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
3. Minutes
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to approve the April 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented.
4. Financial Statement Report
 - Rouchon presented to the Board the April 2015 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Thibeau to approve the April 2015 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
 - Public Hearing on Proposed Administrative Budget 2015-16. There being no public comments, the Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Rouchon to adopt the Administrative Budget of 2015-16, as presented.
5. Report by Executive Director
 - Rietschier reported that the Floodplain Management Plan may be completed by June or July of 2015. It is approximately 80% complete. GCR is working on a Chapter with modeling.
 - Reported that Representative Hodges extended the CRDC Project Task Force. Representative Honore has been named a member of the Task Force.
 - Discussed with the Board the letter he wrote on May 5, 2015 to Mark Wingate, USACE, and to Chris Knotts, LaDOTD regarding Project Management – CRDC Project. He stressed the need to focus on Functional Element 1 of the project. In the letter he requested a planning and budgeting meeting with ARBC, City Parish, LaDOTD and USACE.
 - Borrow Material: Rietschier reported that the USACE needs borrow material, approximately 67-68K CY of dirt. They will need a ROE to access the dirt. Bankston stated that the ARBC Board had given authority to Mr. Rietschier last year to execute ROE authority. Rietschier said that the USACE is moving quickly on this. Discussed the erosion near the pipeline that has become a 30 foot crevice. It is very dangerous so he instructed Mike Bush to clear the grass and place posts along the edge.
 - Bankston explained to the Board that the ARBC owns the property at Lilly Bayou Control Structure but the structure itself has never been turned over to ARBC and therefore the USACE is responsible for all upkeep and maintenance of it.
 - Report by DOTD: William Delmar reported that the DOTD Environmental is performing in the field inspection portion of the HTRW surveys. They have been working as the weather permits. They have been moving at a decent pace. DOTD Utility Relocation has begun work on the initial coordination efforts with the utilities located on the west side of Hwy. 61 near the railroad tracks. Some of those utilities have provided us information on right of way and prior rights. DOTD Project Management has been gathering information for the future budget. This includes estimates for the project real estate, mitigation real estate, and utility relocations. A quarterly breakdown is being prepared from this information.
 - Rietschier presented to the Board the study, “Amite River Diversion Canal Weir for Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District” prepared by GEC, dated May 5, 2015. Rietschier said the cost of the study increased by \$23,000. He had with GEC a gentlemen’s agreement or understanding that the cost would increase. Babin stated that the Board was aware upfront that \$50,000 may not be enough to pay for the study. This will be voted on under New Business. Rietschier said he would still like to do something with the Old Channel of the Amite River.
6. Report by ARBC Legal Counsel:

The levee Board has a Bill that has passed through the House without much opposition that changes the per diem for levee boards. Bankston spoke to ARBC President Don Thompson regarding this matter. Then when it was moving through the Senate, he met with the levee board and asked if they have any objection to ARBC amending onto their Bill with a subsection that would amend the ARBC statute. He is trying to work out something that would increase the ARBC Board’s per diem. The Board’s current per diem is \$60 per meeting, one meeting per day, and 24 meetings per year.

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A letter has been drafted to Senator Cassidy and Representative Graves requesting a change from 75/25 to 65/35 split as well as issuing work in kind and the elimination of Brooks Lake Closure.

7. Old Business: None
8. New Business:
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to extend the CPA contract with David Shoptaugh, as presented, for 2 years, (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017).
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Babin to extend the GCR contract for one year through June 20, 2016.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thibeau, second by Hoover to increase the GEC contract an additional \$23,000, as discussed earlier in the meeting.
9. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Thomas to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Don Thompson
Don Thompson, ARBC President
Date: June 16, 2015

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau
Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary